WARCRAFT
THE SUNWELL TRILOGY
DRAGON HUNT
RICHARD A. KNAAK • JAE-HWAN KIM

Warcraft: The Sunwell Trilogy Vol. 1

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Warcraft: The Sunwell Trilogy volume 1
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Volume 1

Dragon Hunt

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CRYPTOZOIC
ENTERTAINMENT

After what seemed like ages of bloody conflict, the world thought it had at last found peace. The war against the brutish orcs had come to a definitive conclusion, and the remnants of the Horde had been rounded into enclaves and kept under guard.

Soon after the lands started rebuilding, a new, monstrous evil arose. The demonic army of the Burning Legion, united with the ghoulish Undead Scourge, swept over human and orc realms alike, forcing old enemies to band together.

Yet, not until the coming of the mysterious Night Elves and the sacrifice of countless lives was the Burning Legion crushed. Nearly all of the elven kingdom of Quel'Thalas and the human kingdom of Lordaeron lay in ruins, transformed into foul Plaguelands by the Scourge.

Now, an unsteady stalemate exists between Living and Undead, and forces from both sides seek out that which will decisively tip the scales in their favor.

Thus is it that a young blue dragon wings his way toward what little remains of southern

WarCraft

The Sunwell Trilogy

Dragon Hunt

CHAPTER ONE
THE PREY OF HARKYN GRYMSTONE
NOW!
FWOOW

FWOOOM

RRRAUGH!!!

BWAM

?!?!?
RRRARGH!!
BWAM
THWAM
KRAK

HE'S DOWN...
THE SHOT WAS OFF-CENTER! HE'S LIKELY ALIVE...
LET'S MAKE CERTAIN IT WON'T BE FOR LONG.

CLATTER
KRAK
UNNNGH...
UNNNH...

NNNGH...

WHO--?
HUSH...
...YOU ARE BADLY HURT.
I C-CAN'T STAY HERE... AND NEITHER CAN YOU.
THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW...IF THEY SUCCEEDED.
UNNGH
L-LEAVE ME!
NO!

MY HOME IS ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE. YOU CAN REST THERE. MY PARENTS CAN HELP YOU.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU'RE PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER!
YOU ARE HURT. I CANNOT LEAVE YOU HERE.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME...
BUT...
...YOU ARE A DRAGON...
...ARE YOU NOT?
?!?!?

THE BLUE'S NOT HERE!
HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE?
MAYBE NET CAME LOOSE?
WHAT'S THIS? A BLOOD TRAIL!
BUT SMALLER CREATURE...
NO DRAGON FLESH? VOLL HUNGERS...
VOLL ALWAYS HUNGERS!

IT'S GOT TO LEAD US TO THE BLUE! I *WON'T* LET HIM ESCAPE!
FORTUNATELY, OUR PATRON'S GIVEN US THE MEANS TO SEE IF THIS TRAIL'S ANY USE!
THERE! YOU SEE, GROTH? IT GLOWS WHEN I HOLD IT IN THE SAME DIRECTION!
SNEE! VOLL! HURRY! THE PREY'S NOT FAR AHEAD!

THERE IT IS!
THIS IS WRONG! YOU SHOULDN'T ENDANGER YOURSELF!
HUSH, NOW! YOU ARE NOT FIT ENOUGH! MY PARENTS WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP!
LOOK! THERE THEY ARE! MOTHER! FATHER!

ANVEENA! YOU HAVE BROUGHT A GUEST!
HELLO, YOUNG MAN! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
THIS IS KALEC, MOTHER AND FATHER! HE IS A BLUE DRAGON WHO WAS SHOT BY SOME HUNTER! I SAW HIM CRASH, THEN CHANGE SHAPE.
!!!
DEAR, DEAR! BRING HIM IN! WE WILL LOOK AT HIS WOUND!
POOR DARLING! HE WILL NEED FOOD, TOO!
BUT--

NOW, NOW! DO NOT TROUBLE YOURSELF! ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!
COME! COME!
YOU SEE? YOU WILL BE FINE.
NO... THIS ISN'T RIGHT...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'VE A MISSION TO FULFILL--
NOW, NOW! NOT UNTIL YOU HAVE RESTED...

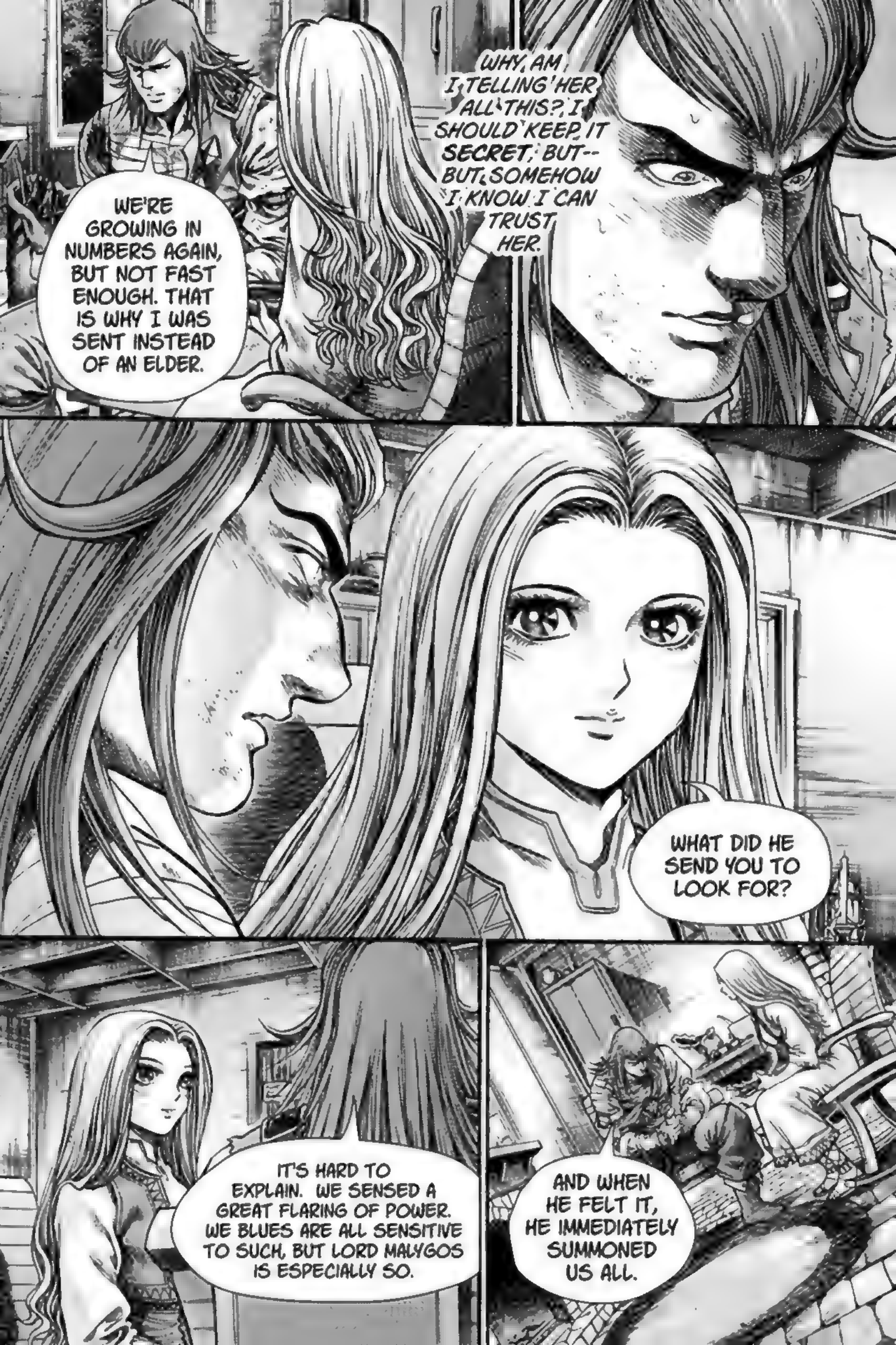
WE FOLLOW *TWO*. ONE LIGHTER THAN OTHER. A *FEMALE*, MAYBE...
I DON'T CARE WHO THEY ARE...WE JUST WANT THAT DRAGON. WE'LL BE PAID GOOD FOR ITS HEAD...FOR *ANY* DRAGON'S HEAD.
'COURSE, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE MONEY'S JUST A BONUS...

I STILL DREAM ABOUT IT AT NIGHT, GROTH...
...THE BEAST... THE BLOOD... MY FAMILY...
...SLAUGHTERED... AND MY OWN BODY TORN TO RIBBONS, LEFT TO DIE.
BUT I DIDN'T DIE... AND I SWORE I'D HUNT DOWN THAT DRAGON--

--ANY DRAGON! AND NOW THAT OUR PATRON'S GIVEN US THE MEANS...
...I WON'T LET ANYONE STAND IN THE WAY! ANYONE!

COME ON, YOU SORRY LOT! THE CRYSTAL SAYS WE'RE CLOSIN' IN ON THE BLUE...
GULP
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.
TUT, TUT! NOT EVERY DAY WE GET A DRAGON AS A VISITOR!
OH, DEAR ME, NO! AND YOU BEING A FRIEND OF ANVEENA...
FATHER, MOTHER...WOULD YOU EXCUSE US, PLEASE?
OF COURSE, DEAR.
WE'VE GOT OUR WORK TO DO.
YOUR FAMILY'S VERY KIND. MOST WOULD FLEE OR TRY TO SLAY ME.
HOW HORRID! BUT WHY?
SIMPLE FEAR, MOSTLY. MOST DRAGONS WATCH OVER THE LESSER RACES, BUT SOME, ESPECIALLY THE BLACK, DESPISE ALL BUT THEMSELVES.

FEW KNOW THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. TO YOUR KIND, WE'RE MOSTLY JUST *BEASTS*.
BUT EACH COLORED FLIGHT IS RULED BY A GREAT ASPECT, THE MOST POWERFUL OF DRAGONS.
MY LORD IS *MALYGOS THE BLUE*, AND MAGIC IS HIS DOMAIN. THERE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL OF US. THE DREAD BLACK, *DEATHWING*, BETRAYED MY MASTER LONG AGO, SLAUGHTERING NEARLY ALL OF US.


WE'RE GROWING IN NUMBERS AGAIN, BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH. THAT IS WHY I WAS SENT INSTEAD OF AN ELDER.
WHY AM I TELLING HER ALL THIS? I SHOULD KEEP IT SECRET; BUT-- BUT SOMEHOW I KNOW I CAN TRUST HER.
WHAT DID HE SEND YOU TO LOOK FOR?
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. WE SENSED A GREAT FLARING OF POWER. WE BLUES ARE ALL SENSITIVE TO SUCH, BUT LORD MALYGOS IS ESPECIALLY SO.
AND WHEN HE FELT IT, HE IMMEDIATELY SUMMONED US ALL.

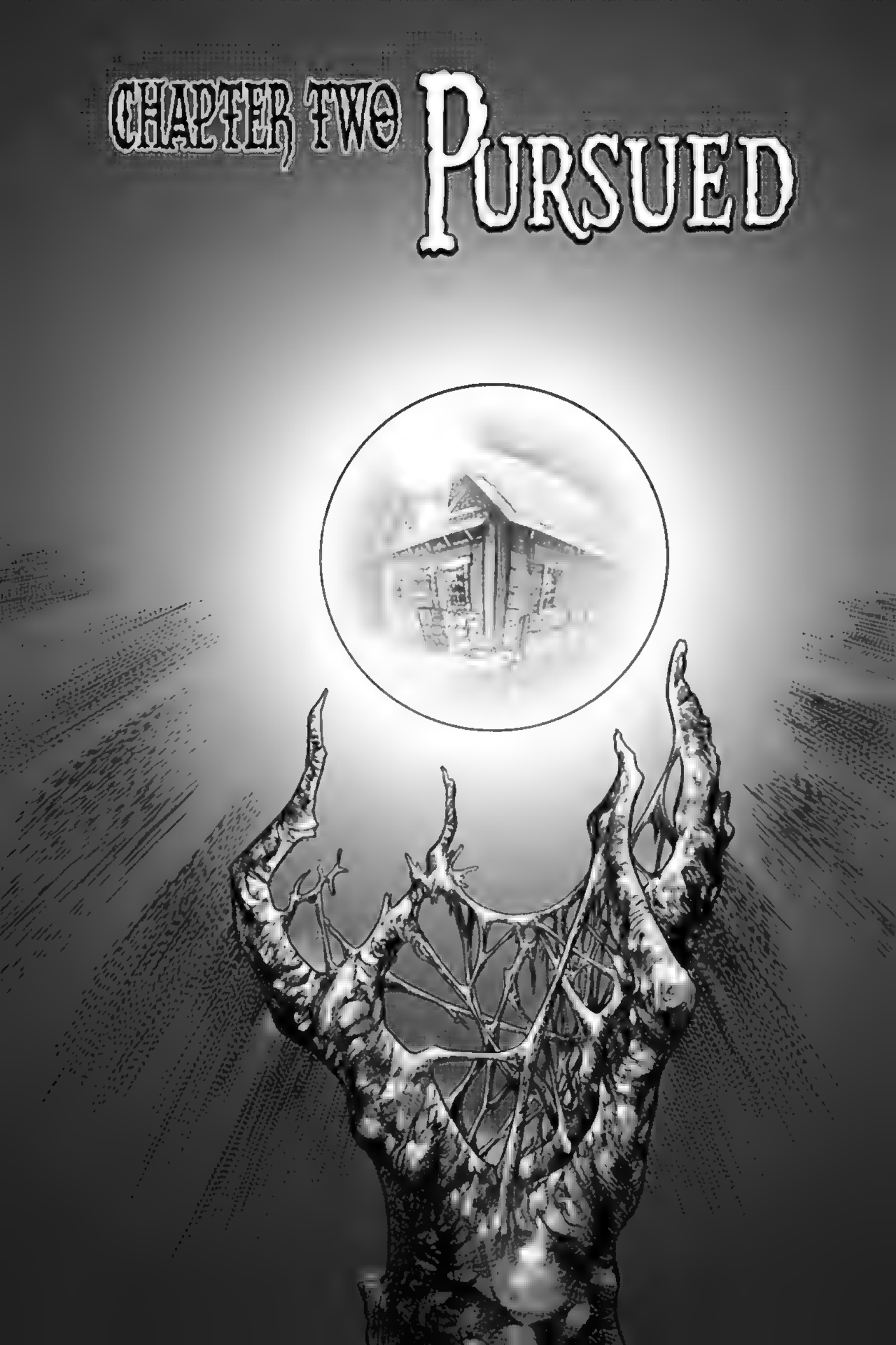
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF THE ELVEN KINGDOM OF QUEL'THALAS?
DESTROYED BY THE UNDEAD SCOURGE WITH THE AID OF TREACHERY FROM WITHIN?
YES, WE KNOW QUEL'THALAS WELL!
THAT'S WHERE WE CAME FROM!
YOU? HUMANS? BUT THE ELVES DISTRUST OUTSIDERS! THAT'S WHAT MADE IT SO TERRIBLE WHEN ONE OF THEIR OWN BETRAYED THEM.

THEY THOUGHT THAT NONE OF THEIR OWN COULD BE SEDUCED BY THE LICH KING'S POWER...BUT ONE WAS.
IN SECRET, HE TRIED TO STEAL FOR THE UNDEAD SCOURGE THE VERY SOURCE OF THE ELVES' POWER...THAT WHICH ALONE HAD PROTECTED THEM FROM THE HORRORS OF THE LICH KING.
THE SUNWELL...

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT A HUGE EXPLOSION RIPPED THE AREA.
INSTEAD OF GAINING ITS POWER, THE ELVEN TRAITOR APPEARED TO SIMPLY DESTROY THE SUNWELL..
...OR SO WE THOUGHT...UNTIL RECENTLY.

THE BEAST'S SOMEWHERE NEAR HERE! SURROUND THAT COTTAGE!
THOSE INSIDE WILL TELL US WHERE IT'S HIDING...
...IF THEY WANT TO LIVE!

CHAPTER TWO PURSUED



...OR SO WE THOUGHT...UNTIL RECENTLY...

THE EMANATIONS CAME FROM VERY NEAR HERE. I WAS SEARCHING FOR THEIR SOURCE WHEN I WAS ATTACKED.
I'VE NO IDEA WHO ATTACKED ME, BUT THEY MUST BE AFTER THE SAME THING I AM.
I'VE GOT TO RECOVER IT BEFORE THEY--

GRRR...
DID YOU HEAR ME?!? DRAGON!! I'M HUNTING A DRAGON! WHERE IS IT?

A DRAGON HUNTER! MY, HOW IMPRESSIVE!
THAT MUST BE TIRING WORK! WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO EAT?
WHERE--IS--THE--DRAGON?
W-WHAT IS THIS?
huff huff
AN ESCAPE ROUTE! WHAT ELSE?
I S-SUPPOSE YOU N-NEED ONE, WITH THE UNDEAD SCOURGE EDGING CLOSER EVERY DAY.
OH, YES--THAT, TOO!

HERE IT IS...
OOMPH!
RUSTLE RUSTLE

!!!!
LITTLE RABBITS TRYING TO RUN?
NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY! HARKYN WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU...
IF HE FINDS YOU ALIVE--
AAARGH!
URGH!
GO, ANVEENA!
NO! NOT WITHOUT YOU!

YOWCH! YAAUGH!
EH?
RUSTLE
HARKYN! HARKYN! TO THE EAST!
NO, I DON'T WANT ANY FOOD! I WANT--
SOME TEA?
AHH!

EAST?! THE DRAGON LIES EAST, TOO!
PTUU!
SPIT THAT OUT AND FOLLOW ME!
DO COME AND VISIT AGAIN...
CLATTER CLATTER
TH-THEY'LL CATCH US! ANVEENA! THIS ISN'T YOUR PROBLEM--
HUSH! WE WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

HUFF HUFF
GASP!
KRAK
KRAK
GRUNT!

UNGH!
THIS CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS...
...I'VE GOT TO TRY SOMETHING!
STAND BACK!
AAAARGH!
TZZZZZZ

AAAAAH!
KALEC!
UNGH--
UNGH--
RRRRRR...
TZZZZZ

RRRRARRRGH!!!

THE BLUE!!
TRUST ME...
SWOOSH

IN THE SKY!
COME BACK HERE, DAMN YOU!
THWAM
RRRAUGH!
BWAM
BWAM
AIEEE!

BLAST!!
N-NO GOOD... HAVE-- HAVE TO LAND AGAIN!
UNGH--
KALEC! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
H-HOLD TIGHT!

KRAK
CRASH
KALEC! THE WATER--
C-CAN'T STOP MYSELF!

AIEEE!
RRRROAR!!
SPLOOOSH
EEEEE!!

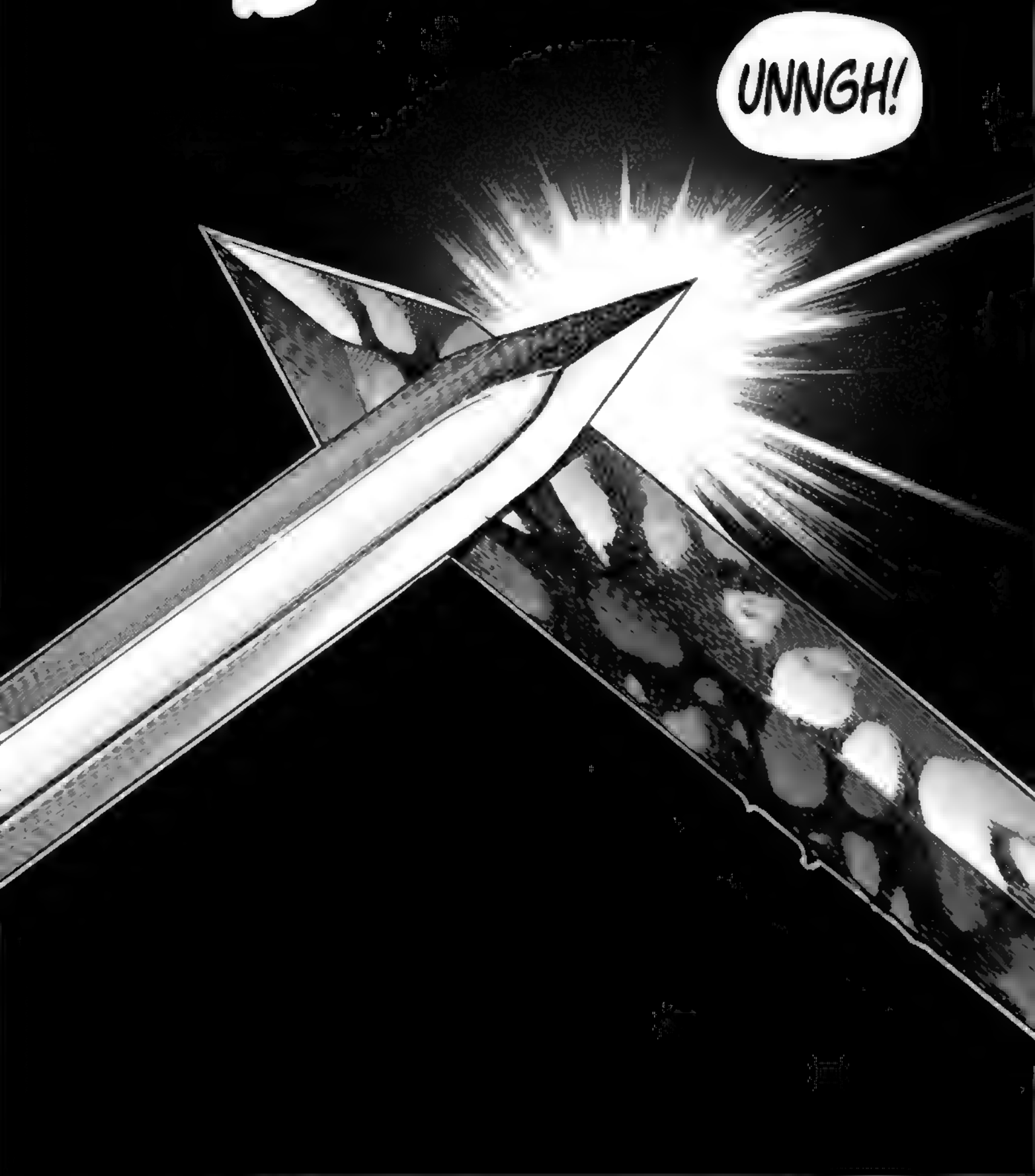
YOU HIT DRAGON?
DON'T KNOW! THINK I SHOOK HIM UP, THOUGH!
HE DISAPPEARED OVER THOSE TREES! THERE'S A LAKE OVER THERE!
THOUGHT I HEARD A SPLASH, BUT WHAT--
EH?
?!!?
WOOSH
NOW WHAT THE DEVIL WAS-- THE CRYSTAL! IT'S POINTING NORTH NOW!
BUT THE LAKE--

THAT WAS THE DRAGON OVER US! THE CRYSTAL'S NEVER STEERED US WRONG! IT'S NORTH WE HEAD...
MAKES MORE SENSE THAN A LAKE!
UNNNH...

WHAT WOULD THE BLUE BE DOING THERE? SWIMMING?
K-KALEC?

CHAPTER THREE

DAR'KHAN



RRAAUGH!

SLASSH

URRR

URRR

WHY DO YOU PERSIST, JORAD MACE?
GET BACK, DAMN YOU!
CLANK
URRR
UNGH!
YOU SWORE YOUR LIFE TO ME...
...NOW I SIMPLY WANT YOU TO SERVE ME IN DEATH, TOO.
URRR

WHAT BETTER HONOR COULD YOU ASK...
...THAN TO SERVE ME FOREVER...
NO, ARTHAS, NO!
CLATTER
NO...

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
KALEC?
RUSTLE
KRAK
KALEC?
OH...
KALEC....

OH!
KALEC! KALEC!
KALEC! PLEASE BE ALIVE!

UNNH... UNNH...
SLOOSH
MMMNN....
SHHH!
AN- ANVEENA?

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STAYED HERE.
I COULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT KNOWING!
THEY COULD'VE FOUND YOU!
WE WERE LUCKY! THEY MUST'VE THOUGHT WE DROWNED!
CHOMP
I SHOULD'VE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT...
...OR HOW I ENDED UP CHANGING BACK AGAIN!

YAWN
BUT IT'S A GOOD THING I DID! IT ENABLED ME TO WASH UP ON SHORE!
IF I'D STAYED IN MY TRUE FORM, I'D HAVE SUNK TOO LOW AND DROWNED...
DON'T WORRY ANYMORE. I WANT YOU TO REST.
I SH-SHOULDN'T... YOU NEED...TO GO TO YOUR PARENTS...
TOMORROW... NOW, YOU SLEEP.
ZZZZ

SH- SHOULDN'T BE LONG NOW. I CAN WALK THE REST OF THE WAY.
I WOULD NOT THINK OF IT!
TWEET TWEET
RUSTLE
YOU'VE DONE FAR TOO MUCH, ANVEENA!
YOU NEED TO RUN HOME! LET YOUR PARENTS KNOW YOU'RE--

GASP!
NOOO!
AN- ANVEENA! BE CAREFUL!
MOTHER! FATHER!
ANVEENA! H-HOLD ON--
GASP!

NO...
NO...NO...
M-MOTHER...
FATHER...
I CAN'T FIND
THEM...
THOSE
DAMNED
MONSTERS!
WHY?
HUH?
RUSTLE

KRAAAAA!

AAAH!
KRAAAA!
FZZZAKKK
KRAAAA!
SLAASH

THUD
WHA--
AAARGH!

FFFFFFFT
SCHLOOP

KALEC!
OH, KALEC!
SHUFFLE
!!!
ANVEENA!
L-LOOK OUT
BEHIND YOU!

GASP!
WOOOSH
NNNNN!
NO!
I'M COMING, ANVEENA--

KALEC! BEHIND YOU!
WHAT?
KAK
AAAUGH!
UNNNH...

!!!
GRRRRRR
CLK
THE RING WILL TIGHTEN THE MORE YOU STRUGGLE, LITTLE HUMAN.
IT WOULD PAIN ME FOR YOU TWO TO SUFFER... NEEDLESSLY...

I AM DAR'KHAN, A GENTLE SOUL BY NATURE...
...SO YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WHAT I DO, I DO BY NECESSITY!
I AM SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING I HAVE LOST...

...THROUGH NO FAULT OF MY OWN.
I'VE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE YOU LITTLE ONES KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
MMMMM
ALTHOUGH YOU ARE NOT *ELVES*, I BELIEVE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP ME.
OHHH!
UNNGH!

MY PEOPLE CALLED IT THE SUNWELL...

CHAPTER FOUR

LEGACY OF THE SUNWELL

...THE SOURCE OF THE MAGIC THAT WAS AS MUCH A PART OF US AS BREATHING OR EATING.

WE BUILT OUR CITIES...
...MOLDED THE LAND TO OUR PURPOSES...
...AND MADE FOR OURSELVES WHATEVER WE DESIRED.

BUT FOR ALL THE GLORIES CREATED THROUGH THE SUNWELL...
...THE REWARD FOR MY PART IN IT WAS NOTHING.
SO I BEGAN SEEKING TO REWARD MYSELF FOR MY GOOD WORK.
NOT EXACTLY AN ELVEN NOTION, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND.

MY PEOPLE, THEY ARE SHORTSIGHTED.
I WAS FORCED TO CAST MY SPELLS IN SECRET...
...BUT CAST THEM I DID.
YET I LEARNED TOO SLOWLY, GAINED TOO LITTLE...
...UNTIL HE REACHED OUT AND FOUND ME.
HE...MY BLESSED LORD ARTHAS.

HE KNEW MY DESIRE AND UNDERSTOOD.
HE GUIDED MY HAND, MY WORK...
...AND SO I LEARNED...BUT STILL IT WAS NOT ENOUGH. I HAD REACHED THE LIMIT THAT MY CALLING ALLOWED FROM THE SUNWELL.
SO LONG AS I WAS BUT ONE OF MANY, I COULD NEVER ATTAIN MY TRUE GLORY!
AND SO, WITH THE AID OF MY BLESSED LORD, I SOUGHT TO TAKE THE SUNWELL FROM QUEL'THALAS.

ARTHAS' GLORIOUS LEGIONS ATTACKED QUEL'THALAS, SLIPPING PAST ITS FABLED DEFENSES WITH MY AID.
MEANWHILE, HE HAD TAUGHT ME THE SPELL OF UNBINDING AND BINDING...
...AND STEELED MY NERVE WHEN I SET THE PLAN INTO MOTION.
THE VIOLENCE WAS REGRETTABLE...
...BUT SOME SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE FOR THE GREATER GOOD, YOU UNDERSTAND.

MY PEOPLE, OF COURSE, DID NOT SEE THIS.
NOT THAT THEY HAD ANY CHOICE ANYMORE.
THE SUNWELL WAS NOW OURS...

I COULD FEEL MY BLESSED LORD ARTHAS URGING ME ON!
I EVEN SENSED HIM USING HIS OWN MAGIC TO DRAW FORTH THE SUNWELL'S POWER...
...BETTER ENABLING ME TO ABSORB ALL OF IT, OF COURSE.

BUT THERE WERE THOSE WHO REFUSED TO ALLOW ME MY DUE!
THEY DARED TO CAST THEIR OWN SPELL IN THE MIDST OF MY GLORY!
THEY DARED TO TAKE MY SUNWELL FROM ME!
I FOUGHT THEM, MY BLESSED LORD AIDING ME WITH HIS MIGHTY STRENGTH...

...AND THEN, SOMETHING WENT TERRIBLY WRONG.

SOMETHING TORE THE SUNWELL'S POWER FROM MY GRIP! THE DESTRUCTION RAVAGED WHAT LITTLE REMAINED UNTOUCHED BY THE SCOURGE...
BUT I CARED NOT. I HAD SHAMED MYSELF BEFORE MY BLESSED LORD.
YET HE SAVED ME, AND SENT ME ACROSS THE CONTINENT...
...TO SEEK OUT WHERE THE SUNWELL'S MAGIC HAD GONE!
AND NOW... AFTER SO LONG...I SENSE IT IS NEAR...

YOU HAVE ONLY TO TELL ME WHERE IT IS.
THEN WHAT? YOU'LL *FREE* US?
WHY, NO!
BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU A RELATIVELY PAINLESS DEATH...
OH!

IF YOU HARM HER--
UNNGH!
KALEC!
KALEC!
BUT, MY DEAR LITTLE ONE, WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY-- HMM?
STOP THIS! I WILL NOT LET IT HAPPEN!

RRRRRR
WOOSH

FWOOSH
KY IBRI INOCH TODT--
SNATCH

VEROT!
KRAK!
RRRAUGH!!!

AAAARGH!
FWOOSH

NO!
AWAY! AWAY!
RRRRR
OOMPH!
SLAASSH

UNNGH...
FWOOSH

URK!
SSSSSSS
ANVEENA?
SOB...
SCRAPE
SCRAPE

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KALECGOS?
WH- WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE, *TYRYGOSA?* I KNOW MALYGOS DIDN'T SEND YOU...
I FEARED FOR YOU, AND I WAS RIGHT TO DO SO.
I ONLY DID WHAT I MUST.

AFTER ALL, I HAVE TO PROTECT MY FUTURE *MATE*.

CHAPTER FIVE
TARREN MILL
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, KALECGOS?

WE CAN LEAVE ANY TIME NOW.

I'M NOT GOING TO *ABANDON* HER.

THAT WOULD BE *CRUEL!*

SHE IS NOT ONE OF US. HER CONCERNS ARE NOT OURS.
SHE SAVED MY LIFE AND LOST HER FAMILY BECAUSE OF ME!
THAT ASIDE, I CAN'T REMOVE THESE COLLARS... AND NEITHER CAN YOU!
AT THE VERY LEAST, WE NEED TO FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN!
YOU WORRY OVER NOTHING. *MALYGOS* SHOULD BE ABLE TO REMOVE YOURS.
BUT HE'LL NOT ALLOW A *HUMAN* TO ENTER OUR REALM.

I CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE LIKE THIS.
SHE'S A *HUMAN*. THEY SURVIVE.
NO! WE'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO REMOVE THESE!

OH!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

RAAAAC!
FWOOP
FWOOP
!!!
RAAAAC!
KALECGOS! WHAT'S THAT?
I DON'T KNOW--

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
BUT IT WAS UNDER THE COTTAGE...
BAAC!
Giggle!
OH!
BAAC!
AND THE ELF SAID HE SENSED THE SUNWELL'S ENERGY NEAR...
SURELY YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING THAT *THING*--

I DON'T KNOW... ANVEENA...
KALEC? I AM SORRY. I LOST TRACK--
ANVEENA... YOUR FAMILY... I'M SORRY...
IT...IT IS ALL RIGHT, KALEC. YOU COULD DO NOTHING.
FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING...BUT DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR PAST?
WE HAVE ALWAYS LIVED HERE...BUT THEY KNOW SOMEONE IN TARREN MILL, I THINK.
WHO?

I NEVER MET HIM, BUT THEY SPOKE OF HIM A LOT. HIS NAME IS *BOREL*.
HE SEEMED TO KNOW QUITE A LOT.
BOREL? MAYBE HE CAN HELP. TARREN MILL ISN'T FAR FROM HERE--
THIS IS *PREPOSTEROUS!* WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO TO SOME HUMAN TOWN AND HUNT SOMEONE SHE'S NEVER *SEEN?*
LET HER GO HERSELF. THE WALK WILL DO HER GOOD.

WE'RE GOING, TOO, TYRI...IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE IT WILL TAKE LONG.
THEN IT'LL BE SAFE FOR US TO RETURN TO THE LAIR.
WELL, IF *THAT'S* THE CASE...
...CLIMB ABOARD AND LET'S BE AWAY FROM THIS PLACE!

WAIT! THAT *THING'S* NOT COMING WITH US, IS IT?
HE'S *NOT* A THING! HE'S *RAAC!* HE'S MY FRIEND!
RAAC. HOW ORIGINAL. MAYBE IF WE FIND A DOG ON THE WAY, YOU CAN CALL HIM WOOF.
TYRI... FOR *ME?*
SIGH... VERY WELL...

HOLD TIGHT!
WOOOSH
YOU'RE TAKING ALL THIS WELL, ANVEENA! YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH OF ONE OF OUR KIND!
I JUST-- IT FEELS LIKE THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
AND *RAAC*--I CAN'T EXPLAIN, BUT WHEN I HOLD HIM, I FEEL *SAFER*...MORE *SECURE*.
HMMM...

THAT SMOKE ON THE HORIZON! THAT MUST BE TARREN MILL!
HMMPH! GOOD!
LAND IN THE WOODS THERE! WE'LL WALK THE REST OF THE WAY!
OF COURSE! DID YOU *THINK* I PLANNED ON LANDING IN THE *SQUARE?*

AH!
I HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE! IT IS *AMAZING!*
THIS BACKWATER SETTLEMENT? AMAZING?
CLATTER
CLANK

THEY MUST NOT SEE ELVES OFTEN HERE. WE STAND OUT.
I'LL NOT DEMEAN MYSELF BY TAKING A HUMAN FORM. AT LEAST ELVES ARE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING.
WELL, WITH THIS NECK RING, I'M STUCK LIKE THIS.
THAT MEANS THAT THE SOONER WE FIND THIS BOREL, THE BETTER.
BOREL?

NOTHING! NO ONE HERE HAS EVEN HEARD OF THIS BOREL!
I AM SORRY, KALEC!

IT'S ALL R-RIGHT... YOU C-CAN'T--
KALEC!
I KNEW IT! HE'S OVEREXTENDED HIMSELF FOR YOU! HE NEEDS REST!
BUT WE HAVE NO MONEY--
A MINOR, MUNDANE PROBLEM.
HOTEL
AND SINCE THAT SEEMS THE ONLY PLACE, IT'LL HAVE TO DO.

MMM... ANVEENA? MY A-APOLOGIES.... I PUSHED TOO HAR--
HELLO, LAD...
...DON'T TEMPT ME. AT THIS RANGE, I CAN'T MISS.
UP WITH YOU! THE CRYSTAL SAYS MY DRAGON'S NEAR...AND I'VE GOT A HUNCH IT'S *VERY* NEAR.

I'VE GOT A *THEORY*, LAD-- ONE THAT INVOLVES YOU AND THE LASSES--AND IT--
KALEC?
CREAK
RUN, ANVEENA!
RAAG!
OH!
YOWTCH!

KALECGOS!
WHAT?
HOTEL
THWOOP
HA!
HEE HEE!
MAGIC WILL NOT SAVE YOU, FEMALE. THIS NET IS PROTECTED.

THE OTHER GIRL'S GONE, BUT SHE'S NO MATTER. THESE ARE THE TWO WE WANT.
W-WE DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR DRAGON IS!
BUT I THINK YOU DO. I'VE HEARD DRAGONS CAN CHANGE SHAPE...
...AND THE CRYSTAL GLOWS MOST WHEN IT'S NEAR YOU.
THE ONLY QUESTION LEFT TO ME IS WHETHER ONE OR BOTH OF YOU ARE--
NOW WHAT'S GOING ON--
BY GRIM BATOL!
EEEK!
YAAAH!

RAAC!
I HAVE TO GO BACK AND SAVE THEM!
YOU DON'T WANT TO RETURN TO TARREN MILL, MY LADY.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE LUCKY. THEY MUST'VE JUST MISSED YOU WHEN THEY ENTERED.
WHO? YOU MEAN THE DWARF AND HIS HUNTERS?
WOULD THAT IT WERE, MY LADY.
NO, THIS IS FAR, FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN A FEW BRIGANDS.

TARREN MILL IS UNDER ATTACK BY THE UNDEAD SCOURGE!

CHAPTER SIX

AGAINST THE SCOURGE

THE *SCOURGE!* THEY MUST'VE FOLLOWED US HERE!

BLASTED SHAMBLING CORPSES! THINK YOU CAN SNEAK UP ON HARKYN GRYMSTONE?

I'LL BLOW YOU TO LITTLE GOBBETS OF-- EH?

MY TRIGGER FINGER! MY WHOLE BODY! CAN'T MOVE!
UNGH!
YOUR EFFORTS ARE FUTILE, YOU KNOW.
REALLY, EVEN FOR A DWARF, YOU ARE STUBBORN. NOT TO MENTION A DISAPPOINTMENT.
PRRRRP
DISAPPOINTMENT?
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS KEEP THE DRAGONS AWAY...

MY FRIENDS! I MUST GO BACK TO MY FRIENDS!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS THERE, MY LADY--
BESIDES, DON'T YOU WANT TO FIND BOREL?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF HIM?
COME WITH ME AND FIND OUT...
NO!
MY LADY!

YOU DON'T DARE RETURN! IT'S DEATH AND WORSE!
I DO NOT CARE!
DAMN!
NOTHING'S WORTH THIS...

MY EMPLOYER WAS A HUMAN! A FORMER PRINCE OF LORDAERON WHO--
A SIMPLE CASTING OF ILLUSION, MORE THAN ENOUGH TO CONVINCE A DWARF.
WHEN I FIRST SENSED THE NEARNESS OF THE SUNWELL'S POWER, I KNEW THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN LOST.
I SENT WORD TO MY BLESSED LORD ARTHAS... WHO REMINDED ME THAT ALTHOUGH THE WIZARDS OF DALARAN MIGHT BE IN DISARRAY...
...THE DRAGONS WOULD BE DRAWN TO THE SUNWELL LIKE MOTHS TO THE FLAME.

THEY ARE CREATURES OF MAGIC, YOU SEE. YOU MIGHT EVEN SAY DEFENDERS OF IT.
THE BLUES, ESPECIALLY.
YOU'RE A FOOL, DAR'KHAN! ARTHAS WILL NEVER LET YOU CONTROL THE SUNWELL'S POWER FOR LONG.
YOU FIND IT, AND HE'LL HAVE KEL'THUZAD TAKE IT FROM YOU!
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON THAT HE'S KEPT YOU AROUND.

ENOUGH, WHELPS! IF YOU CANNOT GIVE ME WHAT I WANT, I'VE NO NEED OF YOU. I'M SO SORRY.
DWARF, YOU WANT TO SLAY DRAGONS-- ANY DRAGONS. I GIVE THESE TO YOU.
YOU-- YOU USED ME! USED MY HATRED--
HATRED IS SUCH A WONDERFUL, MALLEABLE TOOL...
KILL THE FEMALE FIRST. HE MAY REMEMBER SOMETHING, THEN.
NO! PLEASE! NO!

RAAC!
PLEASE, I-I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, BUT I WILL HELP YOU FIND IT IF I CAN...JUST DO NOT HURT THEM!
HMM...
THE GIRL FROM THE COTTAGE...AND THAT THING... THE TRAIL LED HERE...
COULD IT BE?
YES! I SENSE THE POWER OF THE SUNWELL AROUND YOU!
THAT BEAST! IT IS WHAT I SEEK! IT MUST CONTAIN THE SUNWELL'S ESSENCE!
RAAC?
RAAC?

GIVE THAT CREATURE TO ME AND I PROMISE THAT YOUR TROUBLES WILL ALL BE OVER, LITTLE ONE.
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO FEAR ANYTHING AGAIN.
FORGIVE ME, RAAC...
RAAC?
YES... COME TO ME! BE MINE AT LAST!
NO, ANVEENA! HE MUSTN'T HAVE IT!
SILENCE HIM, DWARF.

I'll--
I'll--
YAAAAAH!
URRR
HAH!
THWUP
SLAASSH
WHO DARES?
UMMPH!

FOOL
SSSSSST
RAAC!
BE STILL!
UNNGH--
UNNGH--
SLAY HIM! SLAY ALL OF THEM!
FWOOOM

AAAARGH!
FWOOOW
NO PASTY ELF MAKES A PUPPET OUT OF HARKYN GRYMSTONE!
THIS JOB'S A FREE ONE, LADS! LET'S TAKE THESE WALKING BONES!
RRRARRR!
CRASH
HA!
SCHLOOP

CAN YOU USE THIS, BOY?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER, THANKS!
GO TO THE GIRL! I'LL FREE THE LADY!
RRRARGH!!
EEK!
SLAASSH
THWUK

HNNH --- HNNH
AHAHAH...
FOOL OF A DWARF, I AM A SERVANT OF THE *LICH KING!* I AM *MORE* THAN MORTAL!

C-CAN'T BREATHE--
QUICK! STAND AWAY!
LOOK OUT!

SWOOOSH
RAAAAC!
AUGH!
FWOOSH
AAAARGH!

THWAM
THUD
SCHLOOOP
PRRRR

IS THAT ALL OF THEM? WHAT ABOUT THE ELF?
I DOUBT YOU'VE MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT WITH HIM, SON.

THE NEXT MORNING...
IT'S JUST AS I FEARED. ONLY THE ELF KNEW HOW TO REMOVE THESE.
I AM SORRY, KALECGOS.
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.
BUT YOU CAN GET OUR LORD, MALYGOS, TO REMOVE YOURS.
NOT UNTIL WE CAN REMOVE ANVEENA'S, TOO. I'M NOT LEAVING HER LIKE THIS.
AND WE ALSO NEED TO FIND THIS BOREL. HE MAY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

I MAY KNOW WHERE YOU MIGHT FIND HIM.
DO YOU?
AYE, I MET HIM TWICE HERE, A BEARDED ELDER WITH THE LOOK OF A WIZARD.
HE EVEN MADE MENTION OF THIS SUNWELL THE ELF TALKED OF.
BUT WHY WOULD YOU HELP ME?
YES... WHY? WHO ARE YOU?
I WAS A PALADIN ONCE. I SWORE TO PROTECT LORDAERON. I FAILED. THIS MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE WHAT'S LEFT.
IF THE LICH KING OBTAINS THE SUNWELL, NOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST HIM.

SO... WHERE DO YOU THINK BOREL IS?
HE MENTIONED AN AREA AROUND AERIE PEAK. I'D GO THERE.
DID SOMEONE SAY THEY'RE GOING TO AERIE PEAK?
LAD, I OWE YOU AND YOURS A DEBT AND AN APOLOGY. I LET MY VENGEANCE LEAD ME DOWN A PATH SERVING THE EVIL ONE.
I'VE A COUSIN, LOGGI, NEAR AERIE PEAK. THAT COLLAR LOOKS LIKE DWARVEN WORK. HE MAY BE ABLE TO REMOVE IT.
WHICH MEANS WE CAN SOLVE BOTH PROBLEMS AT ONCE...IF YOU'LL CARRY THE THREE OF US, TYRI.
FOR YOU, YES, KALECGOS.

THEN IT'S SETTLED. TOMORROW, WE'RE OFF TO *AERIE PEAK*...

...AND WHAT SHOULD BE THE END TO ALL OUR TROUBLES...

MONARCH